

Outdoor Nation Youth Summit - 2010

Participant Created Results

These are the top ideas and results created by the participants at the first annual Outdoor Nation Youth Summit that was held on June 19 & 20 in Central Park, NYC.

Assumptions & Perceptions

- 9.2 Having an outdoor experience at a young age can make a huge difference in someone's life.
- 8.1 Young people today are more interested in their technology and "X-Boxes" than the outdoors.
- 8.0 I believe that we can, and will, make a real difference on the issues that we are addressing here at the Outdoor Nation Summit.

Connecting & Engaging Youth

- 8.6 Outdoor classes a requirement in schools and make sure that after school programs are funded well enough to be accessible to all kids.
- 8.5 Pass legislation for environmental education (this is a current bill in congress) pass environmental literacy plans to implement environmental education nation-wide.
- 8.2 Have environmental education part of the curriculum at schools and make outdoor time as well as hands on outdoor classes mandatory.
- 8.1 Outdoor education in schools and outdoor clubs; place based learning youth stewardship programs, subsidized outdoor clubs, summer camps, green civil service opportunities for kids to go experience the outdoors on trails and camping and recreation.
- 8.0 During the great depression the federal government created jobs by employing those in need by building trails and conserving wildlife. Create a federal employment program that is environmentally focused.

Challenges & Barriers to Engagement

- 8.1 Lack of parental and school promotion of the outdoors with their kids.
- 8.0 Lack of family influence and awareness about the outdoors.
- 7.9 Electronic entertainment such as computers, videogames, television etc. Too much focus on technology "why go outside" "the inside is so comfy".
- 7.8 Bring nature back to the city - urban/nature are two separate things - perception. This creates a problem and nature becomes less accessible for all people and requires resources people don't have and can't afford.
- 7.8 Lack of exposure, resources, awareness, fun and adventure family and community support to get outdoors.

Outdoor Careers - Track 1

- 9.0 Environmental Education - Priority on schools, pass legislation for environmental education (this is a current bill in Congress), pass environmental literacy plan, have environmental service learning - for credit, early environmental education, scholarships for environmental education.
- 8.5 Prioritize and fund outdoor service learning opportunities in schools followed by opportunities for youth training programs after graduation that offer EQUAL scholarship opportunities similar to the military GI bill.
- 8.3 Providing local opportunities for outdoor jobs and careers (growing your own food, A community initiative to restore and renew vacant lots, use local building and construction companies, community grants etc.)

Media & Culture - Track 2

- 9.1 Accessibility - people need to be guided to the outdoors at an early age - K-12 schools
- 8.8 Promote safer parks with free events and youth programs, have schools partner with the youth programs to get kids outdoors.
- 8.3 Having the media promote healthy role models, athletes, real life people. Have these role models speak to youth about Outdoors and being healthy.
- 8.2 Create natural play areas in structured environments such as schools.
- 7.9 Designate money within Parks & Recreation Agencies to allow for jobs that concentrate on the diverse marketing and promotion of outdoor initiatives and activities

Recreation & Education - Track 3

- 8.5 Partner with universities to provide internship credits for students who help educate, provide recreation experiences, mentor the youth on outdoor issues.
- 8.3 Create an outdoor ambassador internship that provides training and encourages teachers to incorporate the outdoors into the curriculum within their school.
- 8.2 Create and promote free family outdoor events where they can get active outdoors and obtain free local outdoor experiences.
- 8.1 Creating a political platform that focuses on outdoor experiential education curriculum requirements for schools.
- 8.1 We must create a social norm that moves away from electronic companionship and moves toward outdoor experiences that inherently fulfills youth's physical, mental, and spiritual needs.
- 8.0 Create connections and partnerships with local government departments to use the resources readily available to provide outdoor opportunities. (ie: partnerships between schools and park and recreation departments).
- 7.9 Find and foster role-modeling relationships (mentors) that involve the outdoors in communities.

Cultural Diversity - Track 4

- 8.4 Incorporate the outdoors into standard curriculums through field trips & life skills.
- 8.3 Funding for more accessible afterschool outdoors programs from private (like North Face) and public (education + park & recreation) partnerships.
- 8.1 Advocate with dept of education & bigger organizations to get funding for Environmental and Outdoor Education programs in schools/classes and provide scholarships to get people involved in the programs. (ie: afterschool programs).

Health & Active Lifestyles - Track 5

- 8.6 Get the government out to clean up the toxic waste so we can provide safe and clean spaces for the outdoors - clean it up for the people there - environmental justice.
- 8.3 Holding free and safe outdoor events at schools in communities to get neighbors outside.
- 8.2 Create safe, green spaces for kids and families to exercise and grow their own food within their communities by inspiring and supporting local outdoor leaders and sustaining those positions by offering internships/jobs/money/support.
- 8.2 Safer and easier access to parks, fitness opportunities, and outlets.

Service - Track 6

- 7.9 Website and cell phone initiatives. Outdoor Volunteer website paired with non profits. Phone - take cell phone pictures of areas that can use a project and send it to local agency that supports the above website

Summit Evaluation

- 9.3 I believe that we should make the Outdoor Nation Summit an annual event.
- 8.8 The interactive technology was helpful and used effectively at our Summit.
- 8.7 I am excited about bringing this work/these ideas back home to my community/ongoing work.
- 8.6 We are on the right track.
- 8.5 We had a successful Outdoor Nation Summit.
- 8.1 I felt heard.